



November 27, 2023

Emily Cope
Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries Division
South Carolina Department of Natural Resources
Post Office Box 167, Columbia, SC 29202

Dear Director Cope:

On behalf of Safari Club International, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed changes to the Wildlife Management Area (WMA) regulations for the state of South Carolina.

SCI is dedicated to protecting the freedom to hunt and promoting wildlife conservation and, being so, we appreciate the Department's commitment to increased public access and opportunities.

SCI agrees with, and supports, the Department's proposed regulations that would allow for additional opportunities on four WMAs. The increased access would, as noted by the DNR, generate additional license sales and revenue for the state as well as provide benefits to the local economies where these WMAs exist. These proposed changes generally demonstrate responsible and sustainable management of the state's public land and wildlife resources.

SCI believes that sound science-based conservation involving hunting as the primary management tool, while maximizing opportunities for all huntable species is necessary to the long-term health of wildlife. Hunters have long paid the way for conservation, both game and non-game wildlife, and maximizing opportunity for hunting is also key to long-term funding for all conservation.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on the proposed changes to the Wildlife Management Area regulations for the state of South Carolina.

Sincerely,

W. Laird Hamberlin
CEO – Safari Club International/Foundation